

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An optical fiber coupling unit comprising:

an optical fiber and a sleeve, wherein the optical fiber has a sheathing, and the end portion of the optical fiber is accommodated in the sleeve and has a portion of the sheathing removed, the sleeve further comprising an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve, the inner sleeve being arranged on the end portion of the optical fiber, and the outer sleeve extending with a sleeve portion remote from the one extreme end of the optical fiber over a portion of the sheathing and having about the same outside diameter as the sheathing; and

the outer sleeve having a planar surface adjacent to its circumferential surface and an end face, the sleeve being arranged on an end portion of the optical fiber and with the end face terminating flush with an end of the optical fiber, thereby forming a continuous coupling face so that the optical fiber coupling unit can be placed onto an optical waveguide component to establish an optical coupling.

2. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 1, the optical fiber being surrounded by the sleeve with a distance between the optical fiber and the inner wall of the sleeve being about 1-5 μm .

3. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein the optical fiber is bonded to the sleeve using an adhesive.

4. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein the continuous coupling face extends at an angle of about 82 degrees with respect to a

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longitudinal axis of the optical fiber.

5. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion corresponding to about that of the optical fiber.
6. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit as according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of a material selected from the group of a glass and a ceramic.
7. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit as according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve has an outside diameter between about 2 mm and about 10 mm.
8. (cancelled)
9. (currently amended) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 8 1, the planar surface extending up to the continuous coupling face.
10. (cancelled)
11. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 10, the sleeve having a sleeve portion remote from the end of the optical fiber that surrounds a portion of the sheathing, a distance between the sheathing and the inner wall of the sleeve being about 1-5 μ m.

12. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 11, the sleeve being transversely slit in its sleeve portion remote from the end of the optical fiber, thereby forming a slit space, with a portion of the optical fiber having its sheathing being arranged in the slit space.
13. (cancelled)
14. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 13, the inner sleeve being bonded to the outer sleeve with an adhesive.
15. (cancelled)
16. (previously presented) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 1, the sleeve having a length of at least about 2 mm.
17. (currently amended) An optical waveguide arrangement comprising an optical waveguide component, said optical waveguide component having a placement face, from which an optical structure extends, and an optical fiber coupling unit, the optical fiber coupling unit comprising a sleeve having a longitudinal length with an optical fiber attached thereto, the optical fiber coupling unit having a partial circumferential surface adjacent to a planar surface, wherein the planar surface bisects the partial circumferential surface along a majority of the longitudinal length of the sleeve with a coupling face on an end portion of the sleeve, the optical fiber coupling unit being attached so that its coupling face is adjacent to the placement face of the optical waveguide component, thereby establishing an optical coupling between the optical fiber and the optical structure.

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) An optical fiber coupling unit comprising an optical fiber and a sleeve, the sleeve having a first end, a planar surface, a partial circumferential surface, and a coupling end, wherein the planar surface extends from the coupling end to the first end;

the sleeve being arranged on an end portion of the optical fiber and with the coupling end terminating flush with an end of the optical fiber, thereby forming a continuous coupling face so that the optical fiber coupling unit can be placed onto an optical waveguide component to establish an optical coupling.

22. (new) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 21, wherein the planar surface is disposed at an angle with respect to the continuous coupling face.

23. (new) The optical fiber coupling unit according to claim 21, wherein the planar surface is disposed at an angle of about 82 degrees with respect to the continuous coupling face.

24. (new) An optical waveguide arrangement comprising an optical waveguide component, said optical waveguide component having a placement face, from which an optical structure extends, and an optical fiber coupling unit comprising a sleeve with an optical fiber attached thereto, the sleeve having a first end, a planar surface, a partial circumferential surface, and a coupling end, wherein the planar surface extends from the coupling end to the first end, wherein the optical fiber coupling unit being is

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attached so that its coupling end is adjacent to the placement face of the optical waveguide component, thereby establishing an optical coupling between the optical fiber and the optical structure.